



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/023,499

12/17/2001

Masahiko Satoh

G0126.0214/P214

4068

2352

7590

05/16/2005

OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN
1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 100368403

EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, JEFFERY L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2137

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/023,499	Applicant(s) SATO, MASAHICO	
	Examiner Jeffery Williams	Art Unit 2137	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/12/02; 2/1/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/023499, filed on 12/17/2001.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 2/1/2002 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, of each patent listed that is not in the English language. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 – 5 and 7 – 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang, “Security Control for Computer Power Supply Subsystem”, U.S. Patent 6,041,413.

Regarding claim 1, Wang discloses:

registering a password as a registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 28-31);

keeping the computer into a provisional state before the power is supplied to

main body operation units in the computer (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40);

performing user authentication in the provisional state by comparing and

checking an input password with the registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 33-35);

and starting the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting

coincidence between the input password and the registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40).

Regarding claim 2, Wang discloses:

*suspending the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting
incoincidence between the input password and the registered password (Wang, col. 5,
lines 43, 44);*

Regarding claim 3, Wang discloses:

*wherein the password is compared and checked within a predetermined period of
time (Wang, col. 5, lines 9-18; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 7). Wang discloses that the
system compares and checks the password at the time the user depressed the keys on
the keyboard. Alternatively, the system compares and checks the password upon
receiving a signifying key signal. Such methods constitute comparing and checking a
password within a predetermined period of time.*

Regarding claim 4, Wang discloses:

*wherein when the password consists of more than one-digit symbol, the input
password is compared and checked with the registered password digit by digit (Wang,
col. 3, lines 31-36; col. 5, lines 9-15). Wang discloses that the user entered password
symbols are sent to a first-in first-out buffer. The password comparing unit is coupled to
the first-in first-out buffer, thus receiving each symbol in its respective order from the
first-in first-out buffer and comparing the received symbol to the password.*

Art Unit: 2137

Regarding claim 5, Wang discloses:

storage means for storing the registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 28-31);

power supplying means for supplying power to the main body operation units in the computer (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40);

and control means for controlling said power supplying means to start power supply to the main body operation units when the input password input is matched with the registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40);

and controlling said power supplying means to suspend power supply to the main body operation units when the input password is not matched with the registered password (Wang, col. 5, lines 43, 44);

Regarding claim 7, Wang discloses:

wherein said power supplying means includes an AC-DC converting power supply for conversion of DC from AC, a battery and a DC stabilizing circuit, whereby said control means controls said DC stabilizing circuit to supply DC power to the main body operation unit (Wang, col. 1, lines 15-32; col. 7, lines 56-60). Wang discloses that the power supply circuitry supplies a steady (stabilized) supply of DC power to the main body operation units.

Regarding claim 8, Wang discloses a program storage medium for storing a program for:

registering a password as a registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 28-31);

1 *keeping the computer into a provisional state before the power is supplied to*
2 *main body operation units in the computer (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40);*
3 *performing user authentication in the provisional state by comparing and*
4 *checking an input password with the registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 33-35);*
5 *and starting the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting*
6 *coincidence between the input password and the registered password (Wang, col. 3,*
7 *lines 35-40). Wang discloses that such is accomplished by a program stored in the*
8 *computer system (Wang, col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 7).*

9
10 Regarding claim 9, Wang discloses:

11 *suspending the supply of power to the main body operation units on detecting*
12 *incoincidence between the input password and the registered password (Wang, col. 5,*
13 *lines 43, 44);*

14
15 Regarding claim 10, Wang discloses:

16 *wherein said program storage medium stores a program for letting the computer*
17 *further execute a processing step of comparing and checking the passwords within a*
18 *fixed period of time, and a processing step of comparing and checking the passwords*
19 *on a digit basis when each password consists of more than one-digit symbol (Wang,*
20 *col. 5, lines 9-18; col. 7, line 61 – col. 8, line 7).*

Regarding claims 11 and 12, they are essentially similar in limitations to claims 8 and 9, and are rejected for the same reasons.

Regarding claim 13, Wang discloses:
storage means for storing the registered password (Wang, col. 3, lines 28-31);
power supplying means for supplying power to the main body operation units in the computer (Wang, col. 3, lines 35-40);
and control means for controlling said power supplying means to put the power supplying means into a provisional state in which the power is not supplied to all the main body operation units in the computer before the authentication is performed (Wang, col. 5, lines 43, 44).

Regarding claim 14, Wang discloses:
wherein the control means executes the authentication in the provisional state (Wang, col. 5, lines 43, 44).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang in view of the Admitted Prior Art.

Regarding claim 6, Wang discloses a power supply controller for selectively controlling the power supplied to the main body operation units of a computer system or PC. While Wang discloses in general that the power supply controller would be used to control power supplied to main body operation units such as hard disks ("memory"), he does not specifically disclose a CPU or display (Wang, col. 3, line 3).

The Admitted Prior Art of the instant application, however, discloses that it was known in the art for a power supply controller of a computer system to selectively supply power to main system components including a display and CPU (Instant Application, fig. 1, elems. 4, 7, 8).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ teachings disclosed as Admitted Prior Art with the system of Wang so as to utilize the power supply controller for selectively controlling main system components including the CPU and display. This would have been obvious because

Art Unit: 2137

one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to prevent unnecessary power loss by selectively controlling the power supplied to the CPU and display, as such components draw the relatively largest amounts of power.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP11143589 in view of JP11102240.

Regarding claims 1, 4, 5, and 7, they are rejected for the reasons given in the copy of the Japanese Office Action dated 12/14/04 as submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed 2/1/05.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Angelo, "Secure Method for Enabling/Disabling Power to a Computer System Following Two-Piece User Verification", U.S. Patent 5,960,084.

Byun, "System and Method for Controlling a System Power Supply Using a Password", U.S. Patent 6,615,356 B1.

Cromer, "Power Passwords Within a Data Processing System for Controlling a Supply of System Power", U.S. Patent 6,237,100 B1.

Thompson et al., "Device Security Mechanism Based on Registered Passwords", U.S. Patent 6,725,382 B1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffery Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-7965. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jeffery Williams
571.272.7965
5.11.2005


ANDREW CALDWELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER